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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SHIFERAW, ELENI A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 12/21/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/035,315

Applicant(s)

TENG, WEI KUANG

Examiner

Eleni A. Shiferaw

Art Unit

2136

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 3 and 8 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 4-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's arguments/amendments with respect to canceled claims 3 and 8, amended claim 1, and presently pending claims 1-2 and 4-7, filed on October 28, 2005 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: ROM zone 11, protected zone 12, and user zone 13 as applicant amends figure 3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-2, and 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Robb et al. (Robb, US 6,931,503 B1) in view of Yamamoto et al. (Yamamoto, US 6,532,513 B1).

Regarding claim 1, Robb teaches a method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid state disk, comprising following steps:

a procedure for partitioning a disk drive into a plurality of disk zones including at least one zone selected from a group consisting of a user zone, a ROM zone, and a protect zone (fig. 1, and col. 7 lines 17-55; *hard disk of a computer with one/two platter, ROM, RAM, ... protected/supervised mode ... unprotected/unsupervised mode ...*);

utilizing a mathematical operation for treating a user input data and a register data (col. 5 lines 25-39, and claim 16; *comparing user password entered with previously stored password to access protected data/program stored on protected hard disk storage*); and

assigning one of two passwords to each of the ROM zone and the protected zone utilizing a password operation mode utilizing the mathematical operation with the user input data and the register data (col. 9 lines 60-66, col. 10 lines 7-12, and claim 28; *password is assigned to partitioned storages to protect stored data/program*).

Robb fails to explicitly teach the size of the plurality of disk zones;

However Yamamoto teaches providing a plurality of registers for indicating a record of a size of each of the plurality of disk zones (col. 11 lines 58-62; *partitioning hard disk storage into plurality of different and/or same sizes, and registering different and/or same sizes*).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to employ the teachings of Yamamoto within the system of Robb to

register the sizes of partitioned disk storages. One would have been motivated to do so because it would identify the size of the disk storage to store different size of multiple data/program.

Regarding claim 2, Robb and Yamamoto teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Yamamoto discloses the method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid state disk, wherein the registers are a R_index register, a P_index register and a LBA_max register for indicating records of three disk zone sizes (col. 12 lines 54-col. 12 lines 15; *LBA_max and register indexes are compared and disk storage is partitioned into different zone sizes*).

Regarding claim 4, Robb and Yamamoto teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Yamamoto discloses the method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid state disk, wherein when the register R_index.gtoreq.1 and the register LBA_max>the register P_index>the register R_index, the disk drive 1 is divided into three zones, the disk drive is divided into the user zone, the ROM zone and the protect zone (col. 12 lines 54-col. 12 lines 15; *LBA_max and register indexes are compared and disk storage is partitioned into different zone sizes*).

Regarding claim 5, Robb and Yamamoto teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Yamamoto discloses the method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid state disk, wherein when the register R_index.gtoreq.1 and the register LBA_max=the register P_index>the register R_index, the disk drive is divided into two zones, the user zone and the

ROM zone (col. 12 lines 54-col. 12 lines 15; *LBA_max and register indexes are compared and disk storage is partitioned into different zone sizes*).

Regarding claim 6, Robb and Yamamoto teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Yamamoto discloses the method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid state disk, wherein when the register R_index.gtoreq.1 and the register LBA_max>the register P_index=the register R_index, the disk drive 1 is divided into two zones, the user zone and the protect zone (col. 12 lines 54-col. 12 lines 15; *LBA_max and register indexes are compared and disk storage is partitioned into different zone sizes*).

Regarding claim 7, Robb and Yamamoto teach all the subject matter as described above. In addition Yamamoto discloses the method for data security with lock in a hard disk and a solid disk, wherein when the register R_index.gtoreq.1 and the register LBA_max=the register P_index=the register R_index, the disk drive is divided into the user zone (col. 12 lines 54-col. 12 lines 15; *LBA_max and register indexes are compared and disk storage is partitioned into different zone sizes*).

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- a. Parzych et al. US 5,375,243; *using password to unlock a hard drive for protected data/program is very well known in 1991 ... 1994.*

b. Gardner Pub. No.: US 2003/0101322 A1: *partitioning a memory to store secure data/program...*

c. For more prior arts see Form 892 attached.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.


7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eleni A. Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz R. Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

E. S.


December 16, 2005


Penny Blanner
AU2131
12/19/05